

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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CLERK US DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA	
BY: _____	DEPUTY _____

THOMAS SJOBERG,

Plaintiff,

vs.

HAWLEY, et al.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 3:17-cv-00263-MMD-WGC

ORDER SCHEDULING  
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Pursuant to District Judge Miranda Du's order (ECF No.50) referring this matter to a settlement conference, a settlement conference is hereby scheduled to commence on **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.**, before the undersigned Magistrate Judge, Courtroom Number Two, Bruce R. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 400 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada.

Subsequent to Plaintiff's attendance at a "global" settlement conference presided over by Magistrate Judge Cooke (ret) earlier this year, the U.S. District Court installed upgraded sound systems in the courtrooms of the Bruce R. Thompson courthouse. The enhanced sound system includes headphones with the capability to adjust the volume on the device. **Plaintiff is directed to advise the court with a notice to the court whether he believes it is likely that he will be able to communicate satisfactorily with the utilization of sound-amplification headphones.**

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1           **I.       ATTENDANCE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND CLIENT/CLIENT**  
2           **REPRESENTATIVES**

3           All counsel of record who will be participating in the trial of this case, all parties  
4 appearing *pro se*, if any, and all individual parties must be present.

5           Unless excused by order of the court, clients or client representatives with complete  
6 authority to negotiate and consummate a settlement shall be in attendance at the settlement  
7 conference. This requires the presence of the client or if a corporate, governmental, or other  
8 organizational entity, an authorized representative of the client.

9  
10          For a Defendant, such representative must have final settlement authority to commit the  
11 organization to pay, **in the representative's own discretion**, a settlement amount, up to the  
12 Plaintiff's prayer, or up to the Plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower. For a Plaintiff, such  
13 representative must have final authority, **in the representative's own discretion**, to authorize  
14 dismissal of the case with prejudice, or to accept a settlement amount down to the Defendant's  
15 last offer. If board approval is required to authorize settlement, the attendance of at least one  
16 sitting member of the board (preferably the chairperson) is **absolutely required**.

17  
18          Any insurance company that is a party or may be contractually required to defend or to  
19 pay damages, if any, assessed within its policy limits in this case must have a fully authorized  
20 settlement representative present. Such representative must have final settlement authority to  
21 commit the company to pay, **in the representative's own discretion**, an amount within the  
22 policy limits, or up to the Plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower.

23  
24          **The purpose of the requirement of personal attendance is to have a representative**  
25 **present who has both the authority to exercise his or her own discretion, and the realistic**  
26 **freedom to exercise such discretion without the negative consequences, in order to settle the**  
27

1 **case during the settlement conference without consulting someone else who is not present.**

2 In the event counsel for any party is aware of any circumstance which might cast doubt on a  
3 client's compliance with this paragraph, he/she shall immediately discuss the circumstance with  
4 opposing counsel to resolve it well before the settlement conference, and, if such discussion does  
5 not resolve it, request a telephone conference with the court and counsel.  
6

7 Counsel appearing for the settlement conference without their client representatives or  
8 insurance company representatives, unless authorized as described above, may cause the  
9 settlement conference to be canceled or rescheduled. If this occurs, the non-complying party,  
10 attorney or insurer may be assessed the costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by  
11 other parties and the court as a result of such cancellation, as well as any additional sanctions  
12 deemed appropriate by the court. Counsel are responsible for timely advising any involved non-  
13 party insurance company of the requirements of this order.  
14

## 15 **II. PURPOSE OF SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

16 Obviously, the conference is intended to facilitate settlement of this case. It will be  
17 conducted in such a manner as not to prejudice any party in the event settlement is not reached.  
18 To that end, all matters communicated to the undersigned in confidence will be kept confidential,  
19 and will not be disclosed to any other party, or to the trial judge. The undersigned, of course,  
20 will not serve as the trial judge in this case.  
21

22 At the settlement conference the parties, by counsel, may be requested to present a brief  
23 (5-10 minute) *non-confrontational* presentation outlining the factual and legal highlights of their  
24 case. [If the parties believe the initial joint session will be counter productive, please state so in  
25 your respective settlement briefs along with your rationale for same.] Thereafter, separate,  
26 confidential caucuses will be held with each party and/or the party's representative(s).  
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### 1           **III.     PRE CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS**

2           Settlement conferences are often unproductive unless the parties have exchanged  
3 settlement proposals before the conference and the parties, and their counsel have made a serious  
4 effort to settle the case on their own. **Therefore, before arriving at the settlement conference,**  
5 **the parties are to negotiate and make a good faith effort to settle the case without the**  
6 **involvement of the Court. Specific proposals and counter proposals shall be made.**  
7  
8 Plaintiff(s) shall make an offer to defendant(s) ten (10) days prior to the settlement conference.  
9 Defendant(s) shall make a counter offer to plaintiff(s) five (5) days prior to the settlement  
10 conference. The parties shall provide copies of the parties' offer and counteroffer to the court  
11 via email to [heidi\\_jordan@nvd.uscourts.gov](mailto:heidi_jordan@nvd.uscourts.gov). If the parties wish to be excused from this  
12 procedure, they must obtain leave of court prior to the compliance deadline. **If the parties fail**  
13 **to present specific proposals and counter proposals prior to the settlement conference,**  
14 **sanctions may be imposed by the court if appropriate.** If settlement is not achieved before  
15 the settlement conference, the parties shall be prepared to engage in further negotiation at the  
16 conference.  
17  
18

### 19           **IV.     SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

20           In preparation for the settlement conference, the attorneys for each party shall submit a  
21 confidential settlement conference statement for the court's *in camera* review. The settlement  
22 conference statement shall contain the following:  
23

- 24           1. A brief statement of the nature of the action.
- 25           2. A concise summary of the evidence that supports your theory of the case, including  
26 information which documents your damages claims. You may attach to your statement  
27 those documents or exhibits which are especially relevant to key factual or legal issues,  
28

1 including selected pages from deposition transcripts or responses to other discovery  
2 requests. **Exhibits are to be tabbed and an exhibit index shall be included.**

- 3 3. An analysis of the key issues involved in the litigation.
- 4 4. A discussion of the strongest points in your case, both legal and factual, **and a frank**  
5 **discussion of the weakest points as well.** The court expects you to present a candid  
6 evaluation of the merits of your case.
- 7 5. A further discussion of the strongest and weakest points in your opponents' case, but only  
8 inf they are more than simply the converse of the weakest and strongest points in your  
9 case.
- 10 6. Whether there is an ancillary litigation pending, or planned, which affects this case.  
11  
12 Additionally, if there are any liens, the parties should advise the court of the nature of an  
13 such liens and explain whether the attendance of any representative of a lien holder  
14 would be essential or perhaps beneficial to a successful resolution of this case. If a party  
15 believes the attendance of a lien holder's representative is necessary, the party shall  
16 separately contact and advise the undersigned's Judicial Assistant, Heidi Jordan,  
17 at (775) 686-5858.
- 18 7. An estimate of the cost (including attorneys fees and costs) of taking this case through  
19 trial.
- 20 8. A history of settlement discussions, if any, which details the demands and offers which  
21 have been made, and the reasons they have been rejected.
- 22 9. The settlement proposal that you believe would be fair.
- 23 10. The settlement proposal that you would honestly be willing to make in order to conclude  
24 this matter and stop the expense of litigation.

1 The settlement conference statements shall be received in my chambers, 400 S. Virginia  
2 Street, Suite 405, not later than **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, by 4:00 P.M. DO NOT DELIVER**  
3 **OR MAIL THEM TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE; DO NOT SERVE A COPY ON OPPOSING**  
4 **COUNSEL.**

5  
6 The settlement conference statement should be delivered to my chambers in an envelope  
7 clearly marked "Confidential Contains Settlement Brief."

8 The purpose of the settlement conference statement is to assist the court in preparing for  
9 and conducting the settlement conference. In order to facilitate a meaningful conference, your  
10 **utmost candor** in responding to all of the above listed questions is required. The settlement  
11 conference statements will not be seen by the trial judge. The confidentiality of each statement  
12 will be strictly maintained in my chambers. Following the conference, the settlement conference  
13 statements will be destroyed.

14  
15 **V. BINDING SETTLEMENT**

16  
17 If a settlement is achieved, the essential terms of the settlement will be placed on the  
18 record in either a sealed or unsealed format. The court will retain jurisdiction of the case to  
19 implement the settlement agreement and to resolve any dispute, discrepancy or content of the  
20 terms of settlement. However, unless otherwise specifically ordered, the court's jurisdiction over  
21 this matter will terminate upon the entry of an order of dismissal.

22  
23 Dated this 27th day of September 2019.

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29 U.S. Magistrate Judge, William G. Cobb